No more envelopes for Meralco power bills



By Abigail L. Ho

Running mate says Roco agonized over 3 options

By Michael Lim Ubac, TJ Burgonio and Christine O. Avendaño

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, April 14, 2004 • 36 pages | vol. 19 | no. 136

Ailing Roco flies to US



Raul went under knife in 1996

By Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgonio



Shocked youth supporters: Like losing the heart but we will continue the fight

By TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

'De facto withdrawal' boosts GMA, pressures rivals

UNITE OR ELSE

FPJ slams Lacson, defends Angara

By Carlito Pablo, Norman Bordadora



'Da King' downplays GMA lead

By Carlito Pablo, Norman Bordadora and Cynthia D. Balana

Second FRONTPAGE

Gov't woos Sy in SMC takeover

By Dona Pazzibugan



In Ilocos, FPJ is not 'Da King'

By Carlito Pablo

Bacani denies endorsing Poe

By Blanche S. Rivera

Abducted Pinoy truck driver released in Iraq, now in Jordan

6-6 SPLIT

Roxas leads Senate race

Bro. Eddie still confident of win

Presidential debate scrapped

Comelec junks another DQ case vs GMA

No notary public

No faith in Comelec

TV over-exposure

Graduation message



More NPC solons back GMA

Rebs free mayor's escort

2 more Basilan escapees slain

Employees oppose Maynilad 'bailout'

THE EMPLOYEES of Maynilad Water Services Inc. have asked a Quezon City regional trial court to disapprove the debt-equity swap deal between the water concessionaire and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

Speaking through their lawyer, Manuel B. Imbong, the employees claimed in a motion they filed before the QCRTC Branch 90 that the deal is grossly disadvantageous to the government considering that the shares of stocks of Maynilad has no recoverable value. They said the company's bankruptcy having its liabilities [illegible] their assets.

Imbong said the deal, which gives unwarranted benefits to Maynilad, violates the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act (RA 3019) and hence, illegal.

Moreover, Imbong said that MWSS has no authority to invest its funds to other corporations as this is not among its powers granted by the law which created MWSS.

"Maynilad cannot change the previous rehabilitation plan with the debt-equity swap deal because having been filed with the Court, the declaration in the rehabilitation plan is conclusive on Maynilad and can no longer change it," the lawyer said. *Tina Santos*

Abus seized Indons, Malaysians, Navy confirms

By [illegible]

THE PHILIPPINE Navy confirmed yesterday that members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) were behind the abduction of an Indonesian and two Malaysians from a tugboat in the waters between the Philippines and Malaysia on April 11.

[illegible]

No pursuit

[illegible]

Royal Navy

[illegible]

SPORTS



Champ Quirimit focused on job ahead

By Marc Anthony Reyes

Montaña, Letran post 1st victories



CJ del Rosario of Las Piñas-Ateneo loses the ball off Montaña's Al Magpayo in this bit of action during yesterday's game.

Estimo under the gun over funds

RP beauty is Ms Maja Int'l runner-up



BAYOT

Ex-Boac mayor Festin; 78

12 Pinoys held in HK for gambling

FPJ slams Ping, defends Angara



Running mate says Roco agonized over 3 options



'Da King' downplays GMA lead

No more envelopes for Meralco power bills

The WORLD

Bush defends crackdown vs Iraqi guerrillas

Russians abducted in Iraq

PSC launches Athens 'Go for Gold'

Shell plays 3rd import vs TNT



Estimo . . .

Canlubang batters, 3 others open with a bang

SPORTSWATCH

China Sea winner heads inshore racers

Interactive tennis show set at MAC

Inter-commercial chess starts Saturday

30-plus matches on tap at LFC tonight

Pacquiao must avoid becoming a gift

BARE EYES

Recah Trinidad



3 more Moroccans nabbed over Madrid train blasts

AFTER 9/11 INQUIRY

US intelligence faces major revamp

Megawati seen losing election, says opinion poll

Death toll in Russian mine explosion: 45

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION



Crushed hopes

EDITORIAL

The Maynilad-MWSS deal (Part 2)

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Endorsements

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Roco's break

ANALYSIS



Amando Doronila

A different epidemic

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

Critiquing the 'Passion'

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

The enemies that books face

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

No to another year in high school

LETTERS

[illegible]

Don't blame the Church

[illegible]

Going the way of previous disasters

[illegible]

A basic flaw in privatization

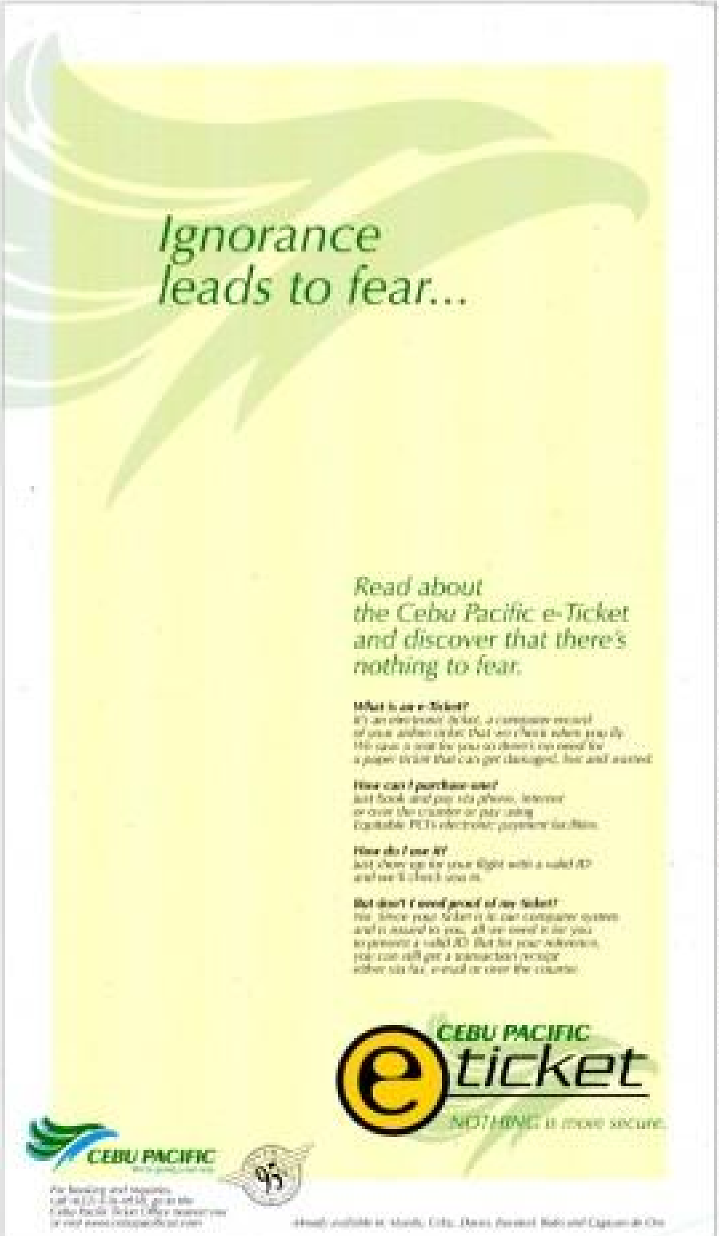
[illegible]

Absentee voting not for seafarers

[illegible]

ERRATUM

[illegible]



Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Ex-agriculture exec denies Red tag

By J. Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY— "I am not a communist."

Former agriculture undersecretary Celestino Martinez Jr. issued this statement after Major Melquiades Feliciano, group commander of the Civil Relations Group in Central Visayas, tagged him and his son as supporters of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA).

"If Major Feliciano is listening, he is crazy . . . he is out of his mind. He is stupid," Martinez said in an interview over dyLA.

Feliciano earlier linked Martinez and his son, Bogo Mayor Celestino "Tining" Martinez III with the underground movement.

Claims

He claimed that the mayor paid P4,500 in financial support to the National Democratic Front in April 2003, as indicated in the receipt recovered by the military.

He also claimed that Martinez established a non-government organization (NGO) Northern Cebu Development Center Inc. (NCDCI) in 1995 when he was still a congressman.

The NCDCI, which is involved in livelihood projects, was being infiltrated by the CPP because its organizers had ties with CPP personalities, he added.

Martinez served as representative of Cebu's fourth district from 1987 to 1995. He is now running for governor under the local party Independent Mass.

His wife, Rep. Clavel Asas-Martinez, and his son are both seeking reelection.

Sympathizer

Martinez said he initiated the establishment of the NGO in 1995 and that the NCDCI's organizers were former members of the left-leaning Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, and were identified before with former Gov. Vicente de la Serna.

De la Serna himself was also accused of being an NPA supporter when he was the governor from 1992 to 1995.

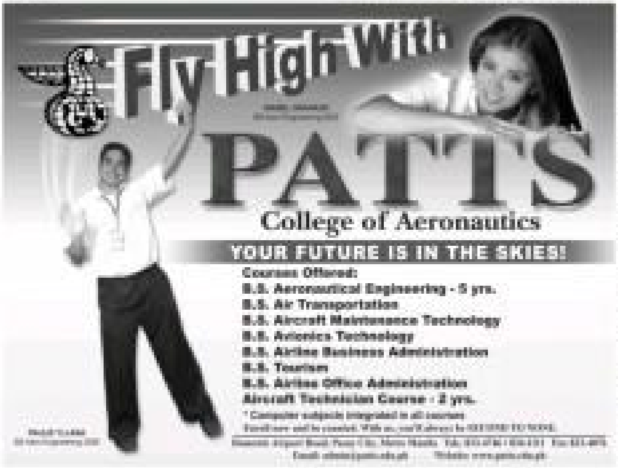
While he did not like some of Bayan's advocacies, Martinez said he agreed with the group's intention to educate the poor of their rights.

Martinez said that when they started putting up the NGO, he made it clear to the NCDCI that he was not a communist and did not believe in the communist ideology.

The main purpose of NCDCI was to establish different cooperatives in the barangays in the entire fourth district.

Through the countrywide development fund (CDF), Martinez released funds for the projects of these cooperatives.

Martinez said most of these cooperatives no longer need assistance now.



Cops, NGO fight over reb's body

Bishop calls plan to legalize 'jueteng' bankrupt idea

ROUNDUP

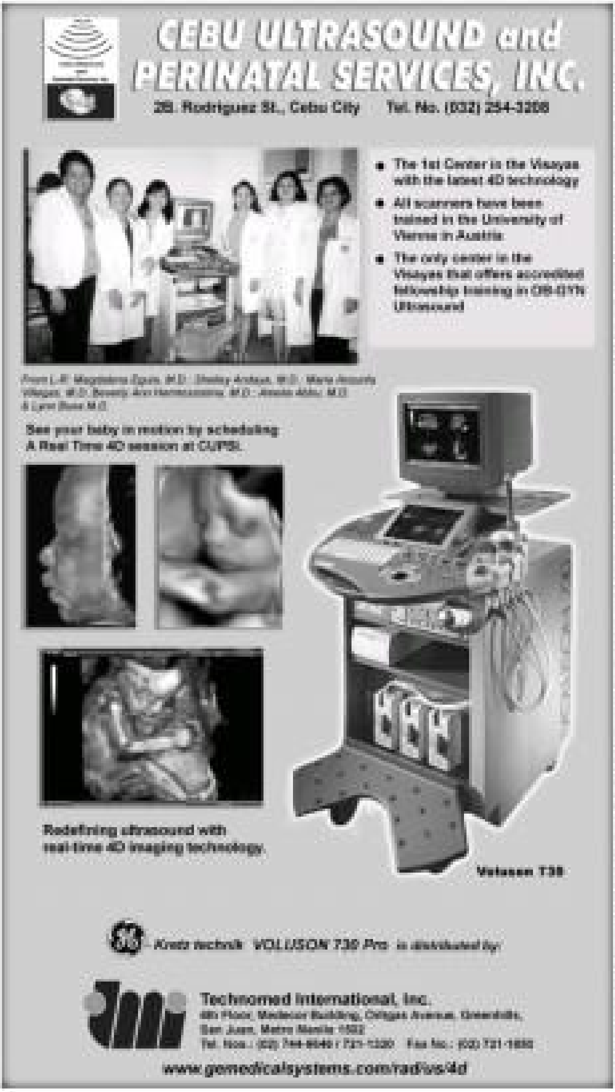
4 teens drown in Laguna de Bay

'COPS' revived in Baguio

EU monitors polls

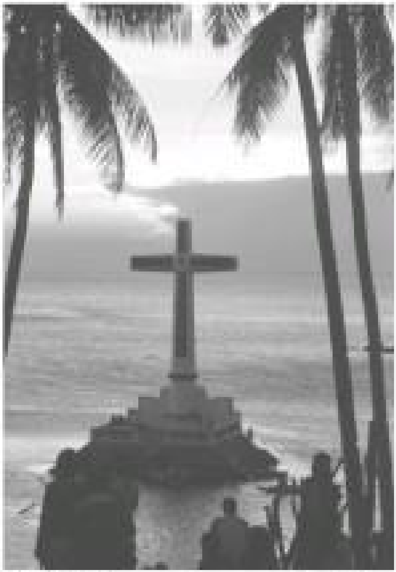
Lapid bred in hot water

New PMA cadets



2 cities, 4 towns in E. Visayas declared hot spots

[illegible]



CAMIGUIN CROSS

[illegible]

2 soldiers die in Masbate clash

[illegible]

Fisheries exec reappointed despite protests

[illegible]

More soldiers deployed to guard power facility

[illegible]

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Bolinao villagers save their marine resources

PROTECT and respect the sea and it will reward you in return. Fishermen in Barangay Balingasay in Bolinao, Pangasinan, learned this lesson when they saved their marine resources from degradation through the establishment of the Balingasay fish sanctuary.



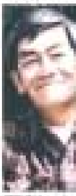
BOLINAO's rich marine environment is regained through the efforts of fishermen of Balingasay village.

Environmental degradation

Uncooperative

He did not climb Mt. Sinai; he built his own mountain

CLIMBING "Mt. Sinai" proved to be Steve Hamada's first and hardest job as a journalist. Sinai, of course, was his father, Meng Sinai Hamada, one of the best short story writers of his generation.



STEVE Hamada

Deadlines

Seaba jr men's cagefest gets under way

[illegible]

Nuggets grab last ticket to playoffs; Sura sizzles

[illegible]



[illegible]

Bonds hits 660th homer, ties Mays

[illegible]



BONDS

[illegible]

Torion comes back

CLEAN LIVING



[illegible]

Ailing Roco leaves for US to seek medical treatment



Raul had prostate surgery in 1996

'De facto withdrawal' boosts GMA, pressures rivals to unite

Save water, MWSS tells Metro folk

Don't waste water

Farming not affected

WARNING TO CAR OWNERS

MMDA to go after banned lights

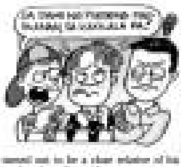


SUMMER FLOOD

NCRPO chief hit for 'kotong' tag

Gun ban nets 382 violators

Burglars pick wrong person to keep loot



MetroBriefs

Pasig 'incursion' defended

Korean arrested

Journalists' congress

METRO
E-mail: metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor: Abelardo S. Ulanday

SIX DIGIT 4 4 4 4 5 1
SUERTRES (in exact order) 5 2 4
6/42 Lotto 10 20 23 28 35 41

Garbage crisis scenario junked

By Margaux Ortiz and Tarra Quismundo

THE REAL garbage crisis will take place after two years, according to Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

Fernando made the statement yesterday in response to the assessment made recently by the Asian Development Bank that warned of a stinking future for the capital unless local government units do something and agencies will push on recycling efforts and sanitary landfill construction.

"Right now, the garbage situation in Metro Manila is under control," Fernando said in a telephone interview.

But he said the dump sites used for the capital's garbage are "unfeasible resources which will expire after two years."

"That is why we are currently on the hunt for possible controlled dump sites which could host Metro Manila's garbage after the present sites are filled," Fernando said.

He added there was no need for Metro Manila residents to panic over a 'looming garbage crisis.'

Fernando appealed again to the public to refrain from throwing their garbage in the waterways and public areas and to follow the door-to-door garbage collection policy of the MMDA and local government units.

Fernando also stressed that segregation at the household level should be conducted.

Better light

Meanwhile, Manila's Department of Public Services (DPS) sees the garbage crisis scenario in a better light.

"Though it is never fixed, our garbage volume lessens every year," said DPS operations division officer in charge Annie Paredes yesterday.

The DPS is the city government's unit tasked to collect garbage. It also ensures that the city's streets and roads are swept clean and clear of any obstruction.

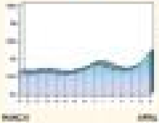
Paredes noted a decline in the daily average of garbage collected in the Manila. And the department expects a further decline once waste segregation is more widely practiced.

Last year, daily garbage collected throughout the city averaged 5,620 cubic meters, down 17 percent from the daily collection of 6,7[illegible] cubic meters in 2002.

BUSINESS

Peso continues rally, closes at 55.80 to $1

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET

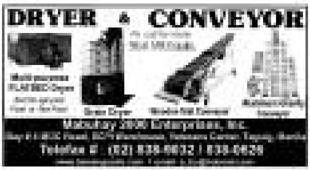
Shares close lower





BOI-approved investments up 1,334% in 1st quarter

BIR collection exceeds goal



Ayala Land unit eyes partner for Cebu project

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ABI beer sales up 40%

Peso continues rally . . .





HSBC to set up backroom unit in RP to serve global operations

By Doris C. Dumlao

BRITISH bank HSBC Ltd. yesterday announced plans to invest "several millions of dollars" in a backroom unit in the Philippines that will call center and business process outsourcing for its global operations.

In a press briefing, HSBC Philippines chief executive officer Warner Manning announced that HSBC Electronic Data Processing Inc., the eighth group service center in Asia, would open in the middle of this year.

HSBC, one of the first foreign banks to set foot in the Philippines, has other existing group service centers in India, China and Malaysia. A site in Sri Lanka is likewise under development.

Commitment

"HSBC has had a presence in the Philippines for close to 130 years. Our decision to open a group service center in Manila reflects our long-standing commitment to the country and our confidence in its prospects," Manning said.

"High quality telecommunications infrastructure and excellent English-language skills are the building blocks of this business, and both are freely available in the Philippines," he added.

The new call center and BPO unit will temporarily locate at the PBCom Tower in Makati and move to its permanent site in Northgate Cyberzone, Alabang by mid 2005.

BOI-registered

Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima said HSBC's new backroom unit, having been registered under the Board of Investments would be entitled to certain fiscal incentives such as an income tax holiday.

"This is a badge of honor for the Philippine BPO and call center industry. We want to be a good number two in the world next to India," Purisima said.

"It not only highlights the quality of our local human resources, but demonstrates the continued viability of the Philippines as a place for doing business," he explained.

Job creation

He said the average investment for call centers in the country ranged between $5,000 and $6,000 per seat.

Extrapolated from Purisima's estimate, HSBC's plan to hire an initial batch of 500 people means that its new call center unit could accommodate about 300 seats requiring about $1 to $2 million in seed investment.

The bank's plan is to grow the backroom unit five-fold over the next two years, implying $5 to $7.5 million in fresh investments in the country.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said HSBC's new expansion plan would create fresh job opportunities and encourage more foreign banks and financial institutions to similarly transfer some, if not all, of their backroom operations to the country.

RP ports to meet new security rules–DOTC

Nenaco urges DFA to help resolve row with Tsuneishi

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF SPI TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

PAL poaches back

Cocktales

Victor C. Agustin

Political players

Heard through the grapevine

Iraqi contingent

Smart, Sun Cellular seek frequencies

By Clarissa S. Batino

BOI-approved . . .

Oil firms seen to raise gas prices by 70¢/liter

SEC told to lay off country club row

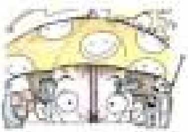
By Elizabeth L. Sanchez and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

RP eggs up for export to countries hit by bird flu

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, [illegible]
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE
Editor Chito Bacal Formoso
Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor

The long hot sweatin'





This week, we have a long list of things to keep you busy this summer. We've got the 411 on the best beaches, workshops, sports camps and review classes. And if you're running out of cash, we





also have tips on how to make extra money for you to survive these allowance-free days. Get off that couch and prepare your blueprint for the season. But if the procrastination fairy has sprinkled her magic dust on you, just sit back, put your feet up and enjoy the rest of this issue.

Summer workshopping

By [illegible]
2bU! Correspondent

My summer vacations have always involved learning of some kind. I've been through piano teachers, art professors, language tutors and taekwondo coaches. While my peers would peruse resort catalogs, I would be poring over workshop brochures.

[illegible]

Off-school short-term courses are the most ideal way to learn something you've always wanted to

[illegible]

Language

[illegible]

[illegible]



Summer workshopping

Photography

[illegible]

Sports

[illegible]

Art

[illegible]

2bU! Summer Workshop Directory

[illegible]

1. Basic Video Production Workshop

[illegible]

2. Art and Animation Workshop

[illegible]

3. Basic Photography Workshop

[illegible]

4. Non-Linear Editing Workshop

[illegible]

Go ahead, take a break

By Rinna Gonzalj
2bU! Correspondent

[illegible]

> It may be better to rest before going to college instead of enrolling in review classes

Promises, promises

[illegible]

False expectations

[illegible]

Exercise in futility?

[illegible]



Play ball in camp this summer



New friends, better moves, fit body. All these and more await you when you join a sports clinic

Learning the basics

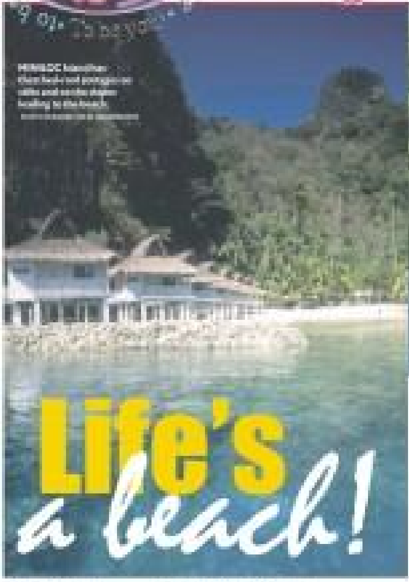
Fixing your future

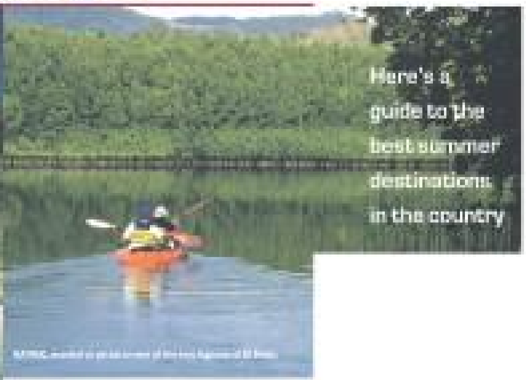
Some sports camps you might want to join:

When do I assume he likes me?



LIFESTYLE





El Nido, Palawan

Boracay, Aklan

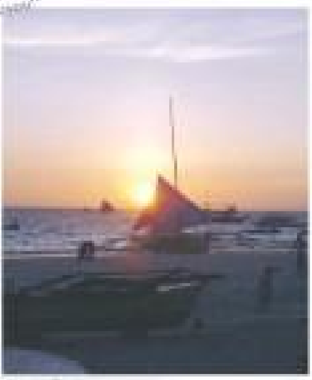
Mactan Island, Cebu

Panglao Island, Bohol

Life's a beach!



LOCAL kids building sand castles in Boracay



BORACAY'S perfect sunsets contribute to its reputation as one of the world's best beaches.

Dos Palmas, Arrecifi Island, Palawan

Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte

Puerto Galera

Balai sa Laiya, Batangas



Paradise in the North

Text and photos by

Five-star service

Treasure trove